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FEMA

Disaster News

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DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS TO OPEN IN KEENE AND ALSTEAD

MERRIMACK, N.H. – Disaster recovery centers (DRCs) will open this week in Keene and Alstead to provide information on state/federal assistance available to residents of New Hampshire counties who sustained uninsured, disaster-related damages from the severe storms and flooding of October 7-18. The counties are Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Sullivan.

Recovery specialists at each location will answer questions about available assistance from applicants who have first registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. People may also apply on line at <http://www.fema.gov>.

“The recovery centers bring recovery information directly to disaster victims,” said Peter Martinasco, FEMA’s federal coordinating officer for this disaster. “We’re able to provide one-on-one answers to questions about aid and also help people update or track their applications.”

State and federal disaster specialists will staff each center. In addition, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives will be on hand to answer questions about low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses and to offer help in completing loan applications.

DRC locations are listed below; hours of operation at both are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, until further notice.

KEENE, N.H.

Opening Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2005

25 Roxbury Street

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Opening Friday, Nov. 4, 2005

Third Congregational Church

14 River Street

Mike Poirier, New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Management’s (BEM) state coordinating officer for the disaster, said that additional recovery centers may be opened in other areas, if needed. “We want to reassure people that help will be available at every step of the recovery process,” he said.

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